



## AMERICA'S TRUMAN SCHOLARS

### ***THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION***

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*(as of January 3, 2017\*)*

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A better future relies on attracting to public service the commitment and sound judgment of bright, outstanding young leaders. This belief is what led President Truman, when approached by a bipartisan group of admirers near the end of his life, to encourage the creation of a living memorial devoted to this purpose rather than a bricks and mortar monument. Since 1975, the Truman Scholarship Foundation has fulfilled that mission: supporting the potential of terrific young people from across the United States committed to public service, more than 3,000 so far.

Our purpose is clear. The need as urgent as ever. Whether the issue is jobs or climate change, fiscal reform or health care, our national affairs are all too often seen as mired in division and paralysis, highly polarized and drowning in private dollars. And the institutions that conduct our nation's affairs lack public confidence, especially the trust of younger Americans.

It is in this environment that the Truman Scholarship Foundation, initially only a source of scholarship support, today nurtures, supports and sustains the ideals and ambitions of young leaders. Along with providing scholarships for graduate school, we operate a week-long program for each new class of Truman Scholars that builds community among them and ensures intensive mentoring from more seasoned Scholars. We also bring Truman Scholars to Washington, DC, for anywhere from three months to two years—after college but before graduate school—and place them in positions with the federal government or with nationally focused nonprofit organizations. And we have launched new programs for Truman Scholars with a particular interest in electoral politics or in senior level positions in the federal executive branch.

Almost four decades into our work, we honor President Truman with a unique approach to effecting outstanding public service leadership, an approach he prescribed and that is simultaneously low-cost and high-impact. This report chronicles the key activities of the Truman Foundation in 2016, and it highlights the ways that the Foundation continues to represent an outstanding public investment, one that honors a president from the last century by preparing leaders for the challenges of the future.

## **The 2016 Selection Process**

In 2016, the Truman Foundation selected 54 new Truman Scholars. The new Scholars were announced on April 13, 2016, after a rigorous national selection process during which they were chosen from among 775 applications received from students at 305 different colleges and universities.

The selection process began with a review of all received applications by the Foundation's Finalist Selection Committee, a group made up of nineteen former Truman Scholars, distinguished public servants and admissions representatives from top law and public affairs graduate programs. The committee met for three days in Annapolis, Maryland, shortly after the February 2nd application deadline and selected 201 finalists from among the 775 applications received.

Then, during March and early April, these finalists were interviewed in-person by one of sixteen Regional Review Panels convened across the country with each panel consisting of 5-10 senior figures in public service, including many former Truman Scholars. These panels made final choices about the 2016 class of Truman Scholars, a group of 54 new Scholars representing 47 different institutions, including 28 public colleges and universities plus one of the service academies.

In total, 104 elected officials, distinguished public servants, former Truman Scholars, and graduate admissions representatives gave their time to assist the Truman Foundation with the 2016 Scholar selection process. In addition, the Truman Foundation relied on the superb efforts of hundreds of faculty and fellowship advisers at colleges and universities across the United States.

The 54 new Truman Scholars selected in 2016 are diverse in just about every way imaginable, except in their shared commitments to public service leadership. Two schools had their first ever Truman Scholars in 2016: South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and State University of New York at Buffalo. The names and brief information about each of the 2016 Truman Scholars are located on our website at [www.truman.gov/search-our-scholars](http://www.truman.gov/search-our-scholars) (please enter '2016' as the Selection Year).. Truman Scholarships were conferred in a ceremony at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri, on May 29, 2016.

## **Truman Programming**

When the first class of Truman Scholars was selected in 1977, the freshly minted Scholars – all college sophomores – were flown to Independence, Missouri, for a weekend ceremony to be recognized among their peers and sent off with \$20,000 in scholarship support. The

money was the award. Back then, Scholars received support for their last two years of college and the first portion of a graduate program, and they met each other only that one time, as they received the award in Missouri. From there, we sent them off to finish their educations with independence from one another and from the Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Times have changed, and so has the Truman Scholar experience. During the past 38 years, the number and types of graduate programs relevant to public service have multiplied; so too have the challenges facing leaders in public service. In response, the mandate of the Truman Foundation has evolved so that we not only provide financial support to an outstanding collection of individual “change agents,” but we also seek to build community among them. Community building among Truman Scholars strengthens their knowledge of the diverse paths to public service leadership, it deepens their commitment to lead and work in collaboration with others, and it forms bonds of lasting friendship.

We begin with a new class of Scholars in late May, when each group is brought together for five days in Missouri for Truman Scholars Leadership Week (TSLW). The week consists of community and team building activities, leadership development, and policy discussions. The new Scholars are provided with intensive mentoring throughout the week by a group of nine former Truman Scholars, all of whom are about ten years into their chosen careers. These Senior Scholars take part in group and one-on-one sessions about the personal and professional trials and tribulations associated with careers in public service.

In 2016, we were joined at TSLW by three seasoned Truman Scholars who are distinguished public service leaders; they spent time with the new class of Scholars:

- Kesha Ram (MI 95) spoke with the new Scholars about her experiences as a state representative in Vermont and as candidate for Vermont Lieutenant Governor. She shared stories about the challenges and opportunities of running for office and making change at the local level.
- Marcia Chatelain (IL 00) talked about her new book, *South Side Girls: Growing Up in the Great Migration*. She also inspired the group with lessons for how to be a public intellectual.
- Lisette Nieves (NY 90) was the final speaker of the week and was recipient of the Truman Foundation’s 2016 Staats Award. Named for the Truman Foundation’s former Chairman Elmer Staats, the Staats Award each year recognizes a Truman Scholar who has led a distinguished public service career and made significant contributions to the Truman Scholar community. Nieves shared lessons from her distinguished career as a leader in education and human development work in New York City and nationally.

It has long been our custom at the Truman Foundation to organize TSLW to produce a state of “constructive confusion” for new Truman Scholars: encouraging the Scholars to carefully examine their chosen professional paths along with their plans for graduate study, all outlined with great specificity in their Scholar applications. In many cases, we advise new

Scholars to take time off between college and graduate school in order to acquire professional experience and to clarify that their chosen graduate degrees make the most sense for what they want to be doing in the long term.

In order to assist Scholars in these regards, the Foundation supports two programs that bring Truman Scholars to Washington, DC, for a period between college and graduate study to participate in internships or jobs in public service. The first of these programs is the Truman Summer Institute, available to Truman Scholars a year following when they receive the award, typically the summer after they graduate from college. Summer Institute is designed to deepen understanding of the national policymaking process and enhance community among participants.

In 2015, 52 Truman Scholars from the class of 2015 participated in Summer Institute. In addition to participation in internships across the federal government and in nationally focused nonprofits, the Scholars came together every Tuesday evening to make presentations to one another – short talks – to better acquaint their fellow Scholars with their states, hobbies, or interests.

Scholars also spent a day on Capitol Hill and half a day at the Pentagon in programs jointly sponsored with the Stennis Center for Public Service. In addition, Summer Institute participants spent half a day at the Supreme Court, where they had the opportunity to hear from Justice Clarence Thomas about the role of the Court in the American political system. They heard as well from Tico Almeida (WI 98), the 2016 recipient of the Truman Foundation's Stevens Award, an annual award to a Truman Scholar who has distinguished him or herself in the legal profession. The award is named for Judge Joseph E. Stevens, Jr., a former President of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Mr. Almeida is the Founder and President of Freedom to Work. They heard as well from Tom Mancinelli (NJ 02), recipient of the Truman Foundation's Ike Skelton Award. The Skelton Award was inaugurated in 2015 in honor of Congressman Ike Skelton. Congressman Skelton, who died in 2013, represented Missouri's 4th congressional district for 34 years, from 1977 to 2011. He was a member of the Truman Foundation's Board of Trustees for most of that time, making him the longest serving member of our Board. Congressman Skelton was a long-serving member of the House Armed Services Committee, and he was its Chairman from 2007-2011. The Skelton Award is given to a Truman Scholar who is a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Following Summer Institute, thirty-five of the Summer Institute participants stayed on in Washington, DC, to participate in the year-long Truman-Albright Fellows Program, a program made possible thanks to the generous support of the Truman Foundation's President, Madeleine K. Albright. Truman-Albright Fellows have full-time positions in public service and participate in activities designed to expand their knowledge, horizons, and networks as public service leaders. They are required to participate in fifteen Tuesday evening workshops (with meetings once every two weeks between September and March) and in a unique mentoring program that matches each of them with a more experienced Truman Scholar with similar interests.

The program is well underway for 2016-17. By the end of the program, as in prior years, Truman-Albright Fellows will be better equipped to make decisions about their professional futures and better supported to make those decisions with the advice of a wide range of seasoned leaders in public service.

In 2013, the Truman Foundation initiated two new programs open to Truman Scholars from all cohorts who have a particular interest in electoral politics or senior positions in the federal executive branch: The Truman Democracy Fellows, and the Truman Governance Fellows, respectively. We launched the Truman Democracy Fellows Program in 2013, and we launched the Governance Fellows Program in 2014. We ran the Governance Fellows Program again in 2016.

### **The Truman Scholar Experience**

Over the years, the Truman Scholarship Foundation has refined a program that begins with the best features of other long-established, high prestige national scholarships (e.g., Rhodes and Marshall) by partnering with more than 300 of the leading colleges and universities across the country to identify the nation's most talented young leaders. We combine these qualities with a single-minded and long-term programmatic commitment to improving the ranks of public service and the direction of national affairs in the United States.

A look back suggests that our impact has been substantial. Truman Scholars serve in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government: mayors, state legislators, state and local judges, and, at the national level, a member of the U.S. Senate and a member of the U.S. House. Truman Scholars are leading major foundations and national and international NGOs. Across the country and around the world, Truman Scholars are judges, legislators, executives, and organizers; they are teachers, doctors, scientists, and scholars. It is a remarkable group, a signal of our success at achieving precisely what President Truman and his admirers had in mind when the Truman Scholarship Foundation was conceived as the living memorial to our 33<sup>rd</sup> president.

**FY 2015 and FY 2016 Financials**

	FY 2015	FY 2016
<b>Income:</b>		
Interest Income	\$752,157.45	\$714,334.00
Appropriation	\$750,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Private Donations	\$15,000.00	\$125,000.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$1,517,157.45</b>	<b>\$1,839,334.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Scholarship Awards and Programming	\$1,650,980.00	\$1,609,245.00
Rent, Salaries & Overhead	\$804,492.00	\$849,178.00
<b>Total Payments:</b>	<b>\$2,455,472.00</b>	<b>\$2,458,423.00</b>
Total Scholarship Support Paid Since 1977	\$56,627,162.00	\$57,648,104.00